

Producing comparative effectiveness information

ISSUE: Policymakers are looking for ways to use Medicare’s resources more efficiently. Comparative effectiveness analysis may offer Medicare opportunities to promote care that is cost efficient and of higher quality.

KEY POINTS: Comparative effectiveness analysis compares the value of drugs, devices, diagnostic and surgical procedures, medical services, and no care. By value, we mean the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of alternate services. In MedPAC’s June 2006 report, the Commission began to explore ways for the Secretary to develop the infrastructure to consider information on both the clinical and cost effectiveness of a service.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide comments about the draft chapter for the June 2007 report.

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